

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 17482

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, LA

SUBJECT: THAI FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO LAOS

REF: BANGKOK 17429

FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN ITSARANGKHUN NA AYUTTHAYA (CHARUNPHAN ISARANGKUN NA AYUTHAYA) WILL DEPART BANGKOK NOVEMBER 6 FOR A THREE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO VIENTIANE. THE CALIBER OF CHARUNPHAN'S DELEGATION IS EXTREMELY HIGH, AND ALL ARE FLUENT IN ENGLISH. THE FOLLOWING PERSONS WILL ACCOMPANY HIM. THE SPELLING THAT THE THAI PREFER APPEARS IN PARENTHESES.

A) DR. SANO UNAKUN (SNOH UNAKUL) IS ONE OF THAILAND'S MOST ABLE ECONOMISTS. HE HAS BEEN SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD SINCE FEBRUARY 1974 AFTER SERVING AS DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE SINCE DECEMBER 1972. HE IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S ECONOMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE. SANO IS 43 YEARS OLD AND HAS A DOCTORATE FROM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

B) ASA SARASIN (ARSA SARASIN) WAS RECENTLY NAMED DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA)

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ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT AND CONCURRENTLY THAILAND'S ASEAN

SECRETARY. HE HAD BEEN CHIEF OF THE MFA POLICY AND PLANNING DIVISION SINCE EARLY 1974 AND BEFORE THAT SECRETARY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHILE FORMER PRIME MINISTER THANOM KITTIKACHON CONCURRENTLY HELD THAT POST. HE JOINED MFA IN 1959 AND HAS SERVED ABROAD IN KUALA LUMPUR (1970-71). ASA IS 38 YEARS OLD AND HAS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE FROM JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY.

C) THEP THEWAKUN (THEP DEWAKULA) IS CHIEF OF THE MFA SOUTHEAST ASIA DIVISION. HE WAS PREVIOUSLY CHIEF OF THE MFA AMERICA DIVISION AND HAS SERVED ABROAD IN TOKYO (1968-71). HE IS ABOUT 35 YEARS OLD AND HAS A LAW DEGREE FROM THE MIDDLE TEMPLE IN LONDON.

D) NIT PHIBUNSONGKHRAM (NITYA PIBULSONGGRAM), LIKE ASA AND THEP, IS ONE OF MFA'S BRIGHTEST YOUNG OFFICIALS. HE IS CURRENTLY DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE POLICY AND PLANNING DIVISION. HE WAS PREVIOUSLY SECRETARY TO DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN. HE IS THE YOUNGEST SON OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER FIELD MARSHAL PHIBUNSONGKHRAM. NIT IS 33 YEARS OLD AND A GRADUATE OF DARTMOUTH COLLEGE.

E) BURAPHA ATTHAKON (BURAPA ATTHAKORN) IS PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS. HE WAS PREVIOUSLY SECRETARY TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE LAND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS. HE PARTICIPATED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH NORTHROP FOR A SECOND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT NEAR BANGKOK - A PROJECT THE CABINET DECIDED TO DROP AFTER STUDENT PROTESTS. BURAPHA IS 31 YEARS OLD AND HAS AN M.A. FROM OXFORD UNIVERSITY.
KINTNER

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